

**CONTACT: Don Rhodes or Jeff Lustgarten, SCAG
213/236-1840 or 323/466-3445**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 12, 2004**

**REGIONAL LEADERS MEET TO COORDINATE
COMMON SOLUTIONS TO KEY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ISSUES**

Los Angeles, CA -- Elected leaders from Santa Maria to Temecula convened Thursday in an unprecedented summit meeting to begin developing consensus around various transportation, housing and other issues of common concern. Elected officials and senior staff from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Ventura Council of Governments, Ventura County Transportation Commission and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments – representing seven Southern California counties– discussed an assortment of issues, including congestion relief, the jobs-housing balance issues, and joint advocacy opportunities for the region.

“It is important that we collaborate on a number of issues given the inter-relationships of the transportation, land use and planning issues facing our regions,” said SCAG President Ron Roberts. “I was very pleased with the exchange we had today, and we look forward to a continued dialogue to ensure that our respective efforts help provide for a broader vision of our collective future.”

Among the items raised at the summit meeting included exploring various approaches to alleviate worsening traffic congestion on the 101 Freeway, strategies to achieve a jobs/housing balance amidst a growing population and trans-migration between counties in Southern California. Other key issues included:

- Developing car pool lanes
- Extending the Metrolink system into Santa Barbara County
- Increasing other transit services between Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties
- Increasing the use of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies to improve the efficiency of traffic flow on the freeway.

(more)

SCAG also presented to the group its recently adopted Compass Growth Vision strategies and described how implementation of the vision could lead to significant traffic relief, housing and other benefits to the area and to the region as a whole.

A number of elected leaders from the two agencies attended the meeting, including:

- ❖ Temecula City Councilmember and SCAG President Ron Roberts
- ❖ Ventura County Supervisor and SCAG Aviation Task Force Chair Judy Mikels
- ❖ Santa Barbara County Supervisor Naomi Schwartz
- ❖ Santa Barbara County Supervisor Susan Rose
- ❖ Ventura County Supervisor Steve Bennett
- ❖ Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks
- ❖ Mayor Dick DeWees, Lompoc
- ❖ Mayor Sue Horgan, Ojai
- ❖ Mayor Dick Weinberg, Carpinteria
- ❖ Vice Mayor Donna Jordan, Carpinteria
- ❖ Deputy Mayor of Ventura and SCAG Regional Councilmember Carl Morehouse
- ❖ Councilmember Dennis Gillette, Thousand Oaks
- ❖ Councilmember Dennis Washburn, Calabasas
- ❖ Councilmember Russ Hicks, Buellton
- ❖ Councilmember Dan Secord, Santa Barbara
- ❖ Councilmember Jack Hawxhurst
- ❖ Councilmember Marty Mariscal, Santa Maria
- ❖ Councilmember Jan McDonald, Camarillo
- ❖ Councilmember Mary Ann Krause
- ❖ Councilmember Bill Fulton, Ventura

Elected leaders agreed on the need for broader legislative advocacy, creating a united Southern California front to more effectively attain transportation funding and other issues of common interest. As part of this cooperative approach, leaders addressed the need to educate their communities about the quality of life benefits of regional planning and advocacy.

“Advocating as an united front from Santa Barbara to the U.S.-Mexico border will be a much more effective way of working with Congress and the State Legislature to ensure that our region has the resources and policies best aligned with our long-term prosperity,” said Santa Maria City Councilmember Marty Mariscal.

#